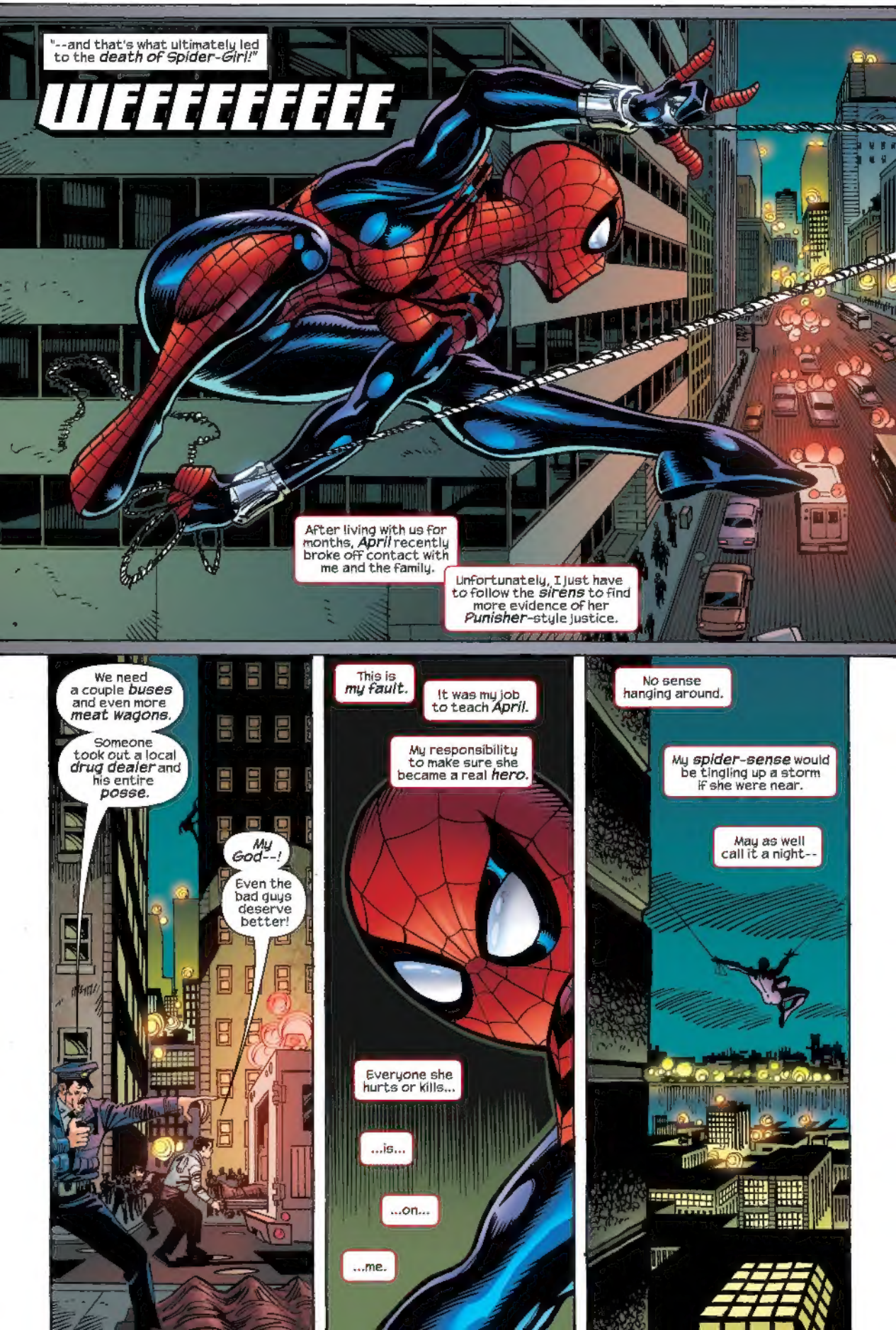
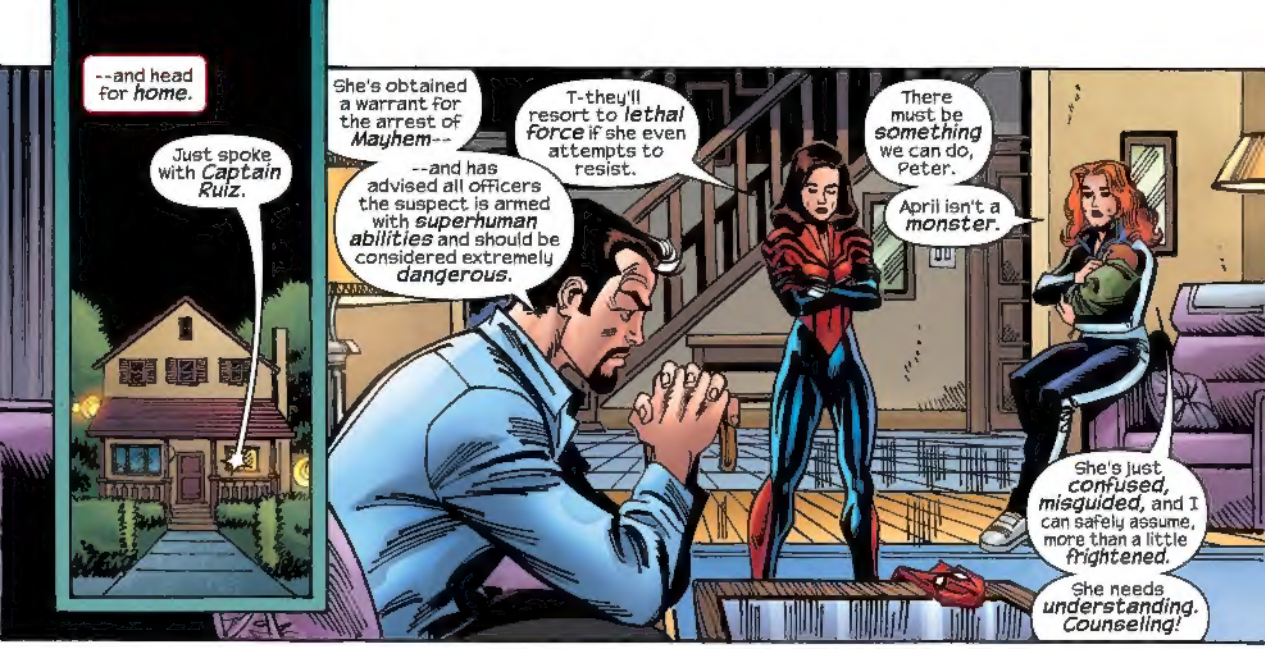
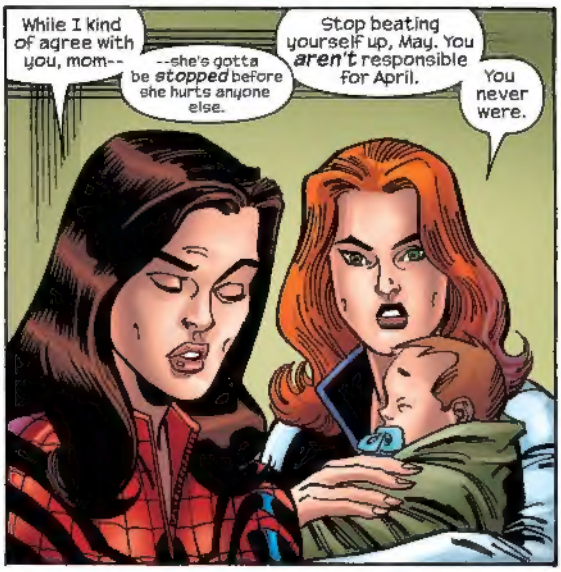
THE END
MARVEL
ONE-SHOT
1
SPIDER-GIRL

Gather around me, children! It's time for another history lesson.
We've been discussing the final age of heroes for the past few days.
Tonight you will finally learn how one of the greatest of them DIED--sacrificing herself to save another!
Pay attention now! You'll want to tell your own children about--
THE END OF SPIDER-GIRL!
TOM DEFALCO and RON FRENZ script, plot, and pencils SAL BUSCEMA finished art
BRUNO HANG & SOTOCOLOR colorists DAVE SHARPE letterer

How much do we remember about Spider-Girl?
I know, Auntie M!
She was the daughter of Spider-Man.
Her real name was May Parker, but most of her friends called her Mayday.
She was fast and strong and could swing on webs and stuff.
Auntie M, my dad said everyone loved her and that she even made friends with all her enemies.
Well...
Not quite all of them.
What about April Parker?
=Blecikkk=
She was like a fake Spider-Girl.
An evil copy with Bio-Pred powers.
She called herself Mayhem 'cause that's all she was about.
April was actually a clone.
She was also a genetic hybrid with the abilities of an alien symbiote--
--and truly believed she was the real May Parker.
April grew up alone, without anyone to teach her right from wrong.
Although she possessed great power, she never embraced any real sense of personal responsibility--


"--and that's what ultimately led to the death of Spider-Girl!"
WEEEEEEEEE
After living with us for months, April recently broke off contact with me and the family.
Unfortunately, I just have to follow the sirens to find more evidence of her Punisher-style justice.
We need a couple buses and even more meat wagons.
Someone took out a local drug dealer and his entire posse.
My God--!
Even the bad guys deserve better!
This is my fault.
It was my job to teach April.
My responsibility to make sure she became a real hero.
Everyone she hurts or kills...
...is...
...on...
...me.
No sense hanging around.
My spider-sense would be tingling up a storm if she were near.
May as well call it a night--


--and head for home.
Just spoke with Captain Ruiz.
She's obtained a warrant for the arrest of Mayhem--
--and has advised all officers the suspect is armed with superhuman abilities and should be considered extremely dangerous.
T-they'll resort to lethal force if she even attempts to resist.
There must be something we can do, Peter.
April isn't a monster.
She's just confused, misguided, and I can safely assume, more than a little frightened.
She needs understanding. Counseling!

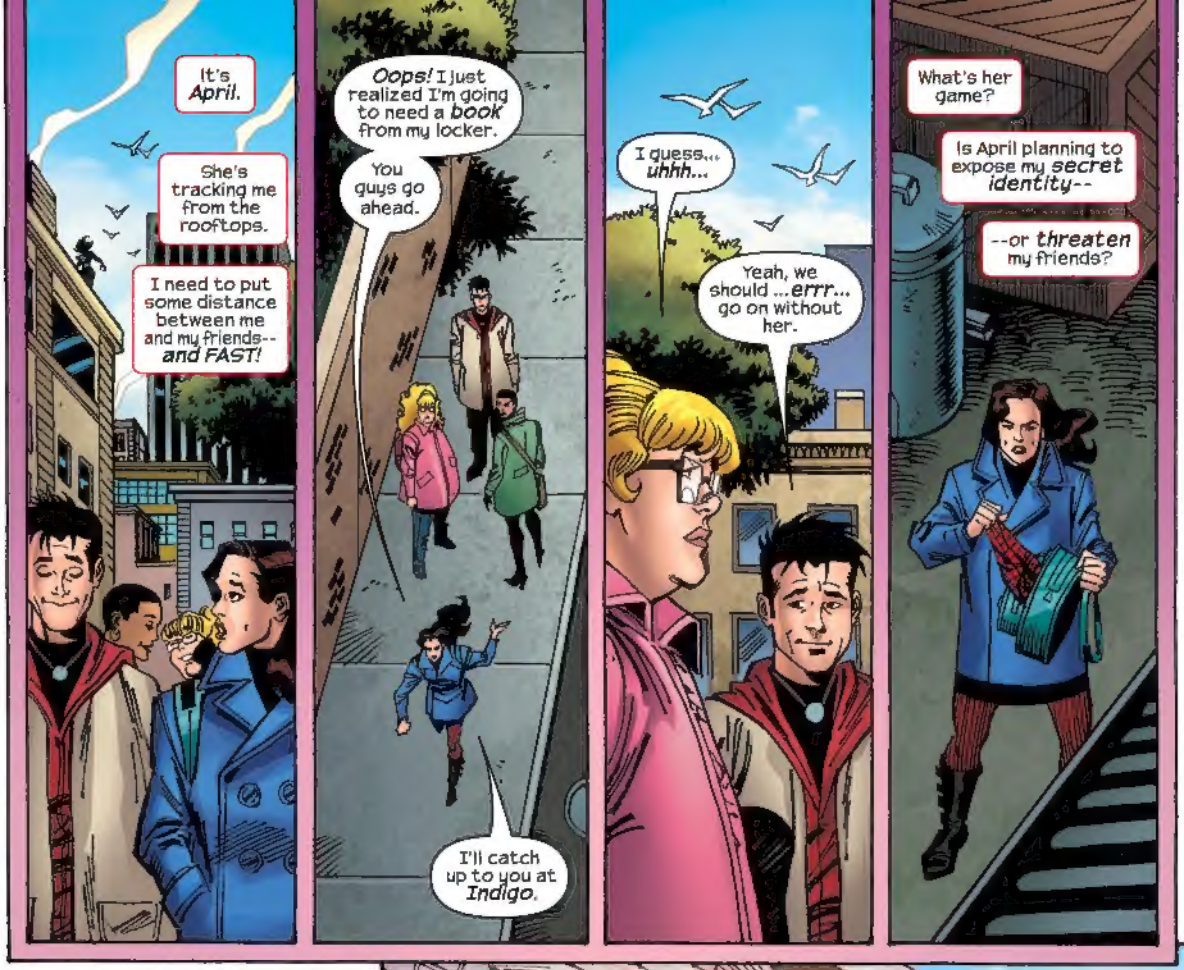

While I kind of agree with you, mom--
--she's gotta be stopped before she hurts anyone else.
Stop beating yourself up, May. You aren't responsible for April.
You never were.

Listen to your mother! April spent most of her life in a test tube.
She was designed to destroy this family.
Yes, but we outsmarted her creators by practically adopting her.
We Parkers are a hardy breed, filled with good old fashioned gumption.
Gumption--?!
A word your father's aunt often used.
It means the will to live...to fight.

Yeah, that's us all right.
We never give up.
I'm going to put Benjy to bed and turn in myself.

Spending time with him reminds me why I play hero.
Someone's got to defend the innocent.

Have you heard from April?
MIDTOWN HIGH SCHOOL
No...not really.
I, for one, am glad she finally moved back to wherever she came from.
Everyone knows how *you* feel, Davida.
I'm doing fine, Courtney. April only lived with us for a short time, but she did become a real part of the family.
You're better off without her, Mayday. The girl was cramping your style.
I'm here if you want to talk.
Appreciate the offer, Court.
Whoa! The eyes of mortal man were never designed to view such blinding *beauty*.
Ahhhh, Wes, if only the rest of your gender had such good taste--!
Any chance you ladies are headed to *Café Indigo*?
Yes, and you're invited.
Gotta admit they'd make a fine couple!
We've done our part. The rest is up to them.
How's your comic book coming?
Jimmy and I have been struggling against a pretty crazy deadline--
--but that's the biz!
Uh-oh! Spider-sense suddenly on full alert--
--warning me of *danger!*


It's April.
She's tracking me from the rooftops.
I need to put some distance between me and my friends-- and FAST!
Oops! I just realized I'm going to need a book from my locker.
You guys go ahead.
I'll catch up to you at Indigo.
I guess... uhhh...
Yeah, we should ...errr... go on without her.
What's her game?
Is April planning to expose my secret identity--
--or threaten my friends?

Maybe it's just me she's after and--
Care to join me upstairs, May?
We should chat.

What can I do for you, April?
You can show a little class and step aside.
I'm willing to spare your life if you'll give up being Spider-Girl--
--and just admit I'm the original May Parker.
My war on crime has proven I'm much better than you, anyway.
The underworld is terrified of me.
Everyone fears you, April.
The police and costumed heroes like the Avengers and Fantastic Five consider you a super-menace.
They're already hunting you.
Bunch of WIMPS--the whole lot of them!
They can't stop me.
SKWAKKKK!
No one CAN!
You think Spider-Girl is a name that anyone can assume?
You're WRONG!
It doesn't matter which of us was born the original or who's the clone.
Through no fault or design of my own, I ended up the lucky one--
--the one who got to be nurtured, loved, and inspired by Peter and Mary Jane Parker!
THWIPP!

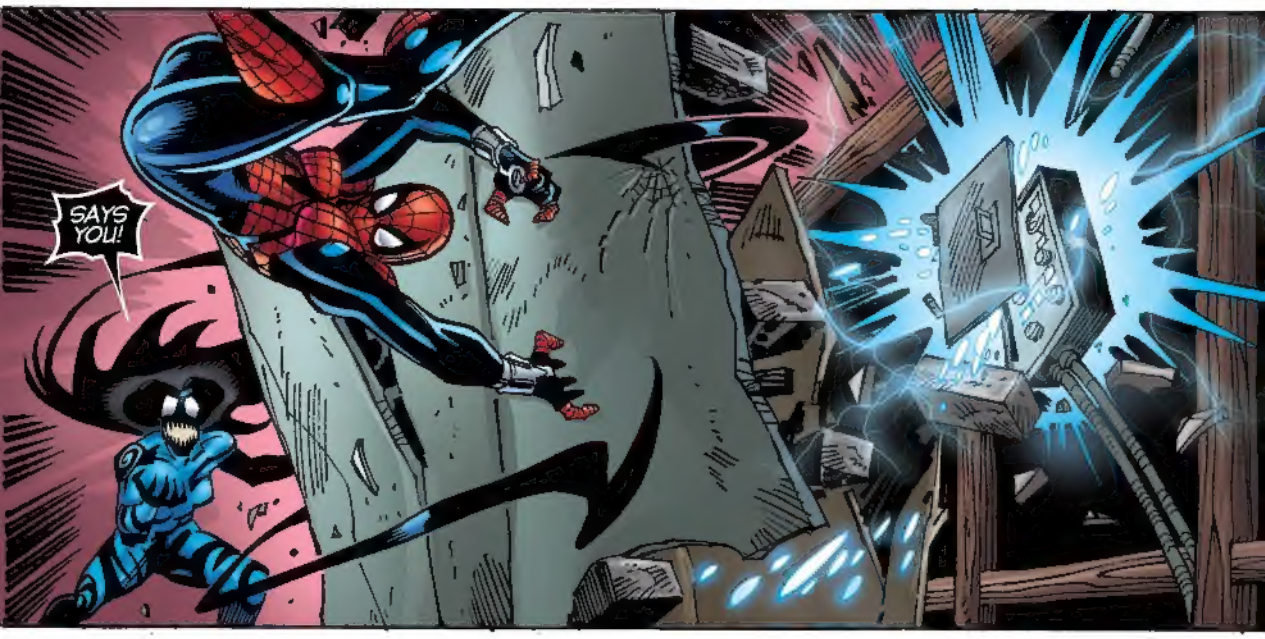
It doesn't matter what I call myself.
I am the daughter of
And that's an honor that no one else can ever claim!
Please let it be this easy!
Please let it be this easy!
Please let it be--
THIEF!
LIAR!
IMPOSTER!

Not only have you stolen the life that should have been mine, you sabotaged me at every turn.
You undermined me in front of your family and friends--
--and never gave me any credit for all the good I've accomplished.

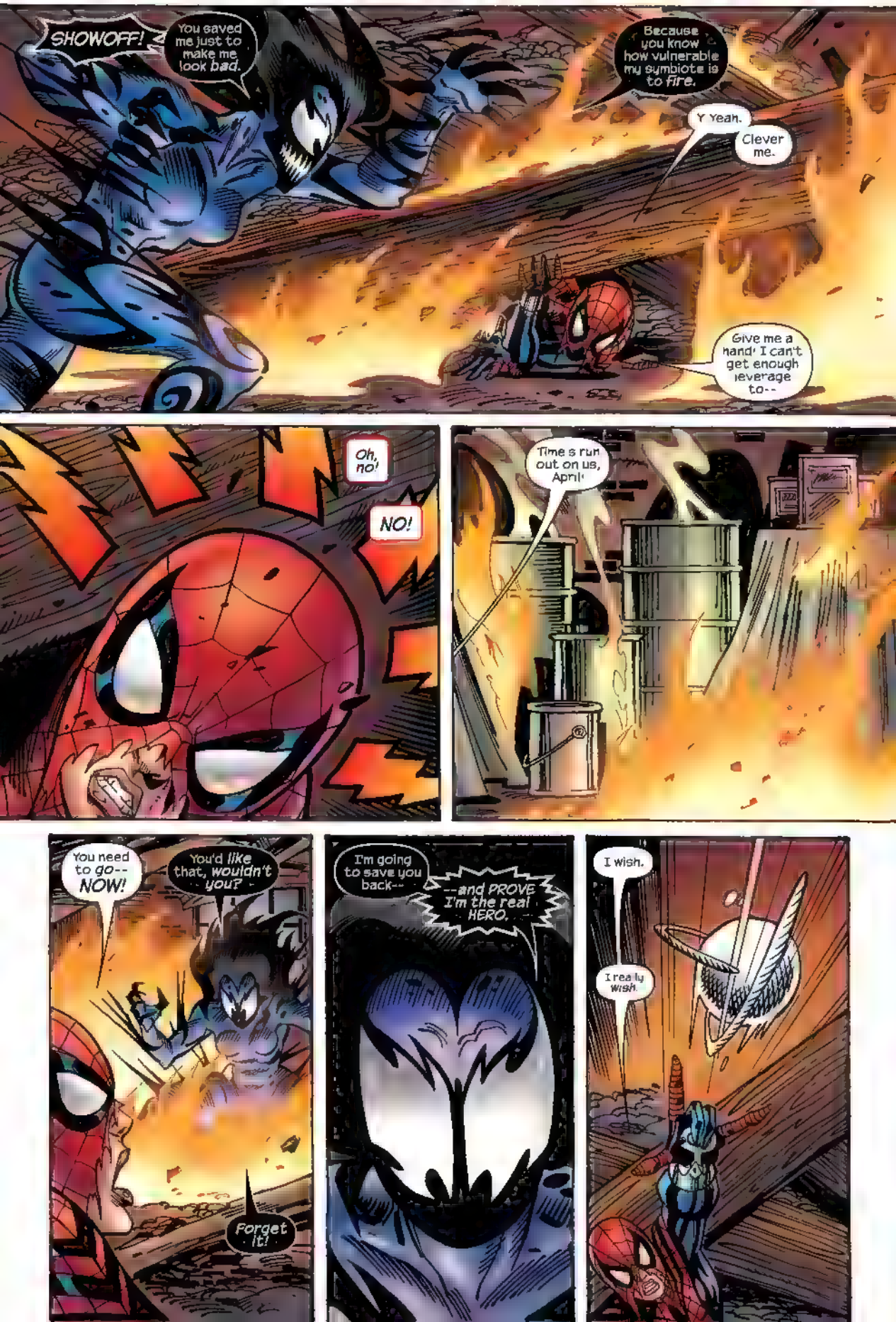
Tombstone almost killed you so I took him out.
I'm the one who stopped the recent gang war by eliminating the Hobgoblin.

The streets are safer now because I'm attending to the drug lords.
And yet, you portray me as the bad guy.
Listen to yourself, April!

You're KILLING people!
That's the very definition of a bad guy.
Heroes are supposed to punish the guilty.
NO! Our job is to protect the helpless.


SAYS YOU!

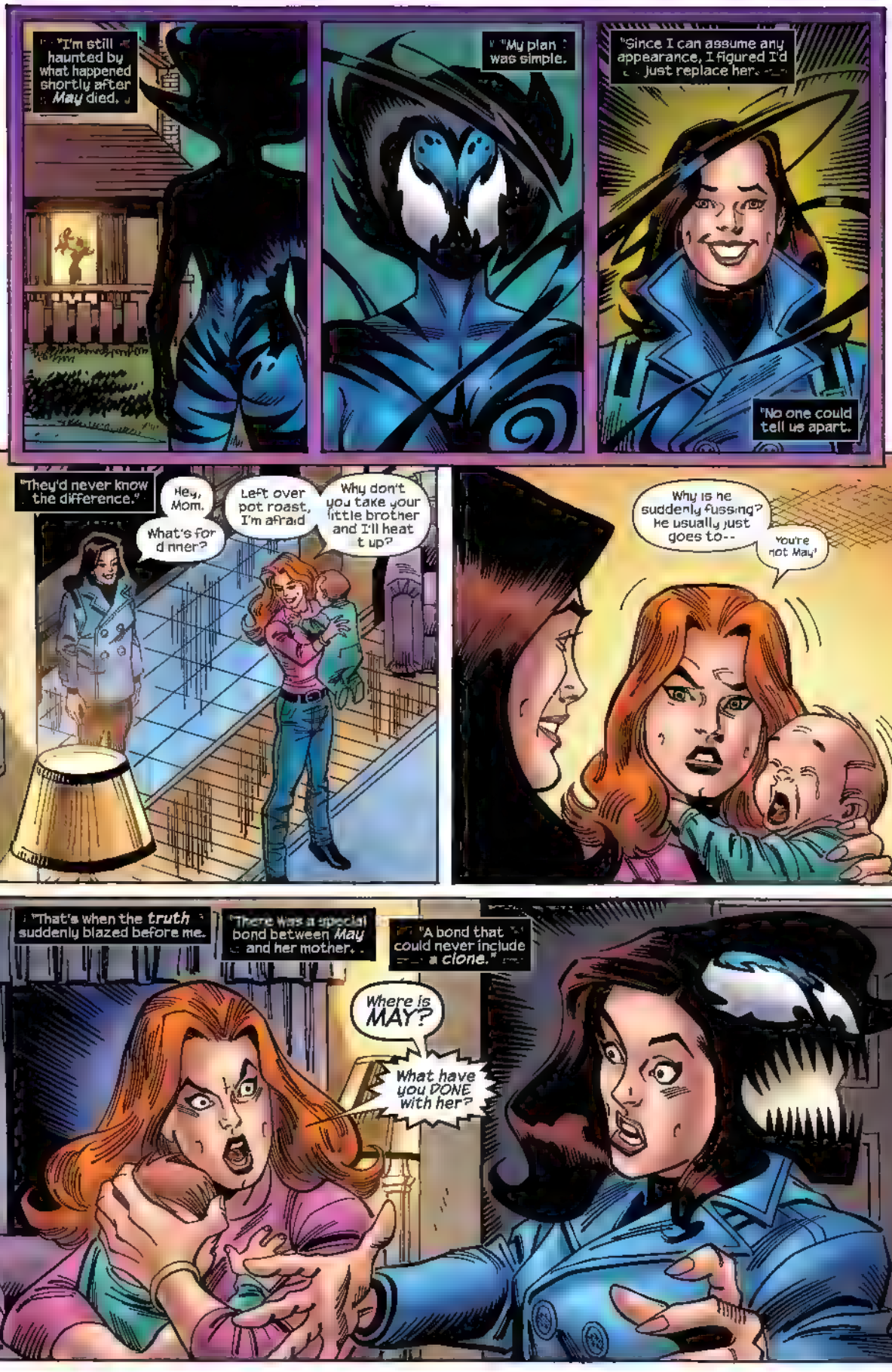
Look what you've done!
We've got to get out of here before the flames reach those painting supplies.
This is exactly what I'm talking about.
You blame everything on me.
It's always my fault.
Look what I've done.
We're not leaving until we finish this--!
SSSWAKKTTT
:arrk!
April, this really isn't the time to--
LOOK OUT!
Ha! I'm not falling for that old--!
KWATOOOM!
Idiot! I keep warning you about ignoring your spider-sense and--
ARRRGH!
Why are you :ufff!:


SHOWOFF!
You saved me just to make me look bad.
Because you know how vulnerable my symbiote is to fire.
Y Yeah.
Clever me.
Give me a hand! I can't get enough leverage to--
Oh, no!
NO!
Time's run out on us, April!
You need to go-- NOW!
You'd like that, wouldn't you?
Forget it!
I'm going to save you back--
--and PROVE I'm the real HERO.
I wish.
I really wish.

Please tell the family I love them.
WHAAA---?!
MAY!
MAY!
SPPLLLATT!

That's not how the story is supposed to end, Auntie M.
Finish it the right way!
Yeah, tell us the part where Spider-Girl crawls out of the rubble, kicks Mayhem's butt, and lives happily ever after.
Ahem! I'm afraid that's all for tonight, kids.
You little tunnel rats need to report to your shelters.
It's getting close to curfew.
Do we have to, Auntie M?
The FUTURE is GREEN
Uncle Torus is right.
You know the rules.
I want everyone tucked in and safe from the Bio-Preds.
See you tomorrow, Auntie M.
Thanks for the story.

What's wrong, Torus?
What makes you think anything's wrong, M?
I've known you since you were a teenager, Torus Storm--back before you joined the Fantastic Six.
You can't hide from me.
Besides, curfew's at least an hour away.
<sigh> Topside Intel indicates the Bio-Preds are closing in on us.
Standard procedure is to pull up stakes and bug out, but....
We've run out of hiding places.
That's why "The Mulligan" is so vital.
The crazy plan you and Cassie Lang whipped up?
It could be humanity's last hope.
I don't understand you sometimes. Why do you do it?
Do what?
Tell each new generation the same old story with you as the bad guy
Have you forgotten what M stands for, old friend?
There's a reason I tell that story.
History must never forget--
I AM the bad guy!


"I'm still haunted by what happened shortly after *May* died.
"My plan was simple.
"Since I can assume any appearance, I figured I'd just replace her.
"No one could tell us apart.
"They'd never know the difference."
Hey, Mom.
What's for dinner?
Left over pot roast, I'm afraid
Why don't you take your little brother and I'll heat it up?
Why is he suddenly fussing? He usually just goes to--
You're not May!
"That's when the *truth* suddenly blazed before me.
"There was a special bond between *May* and her mother.
"A bond that could never include a *clone*."
Where is MAY?
What have you DONE with her?

"I guess I went a little nuts for awhile there.
"I buried myself in my work—
"—and cut a bloody swath through the super-villain community."

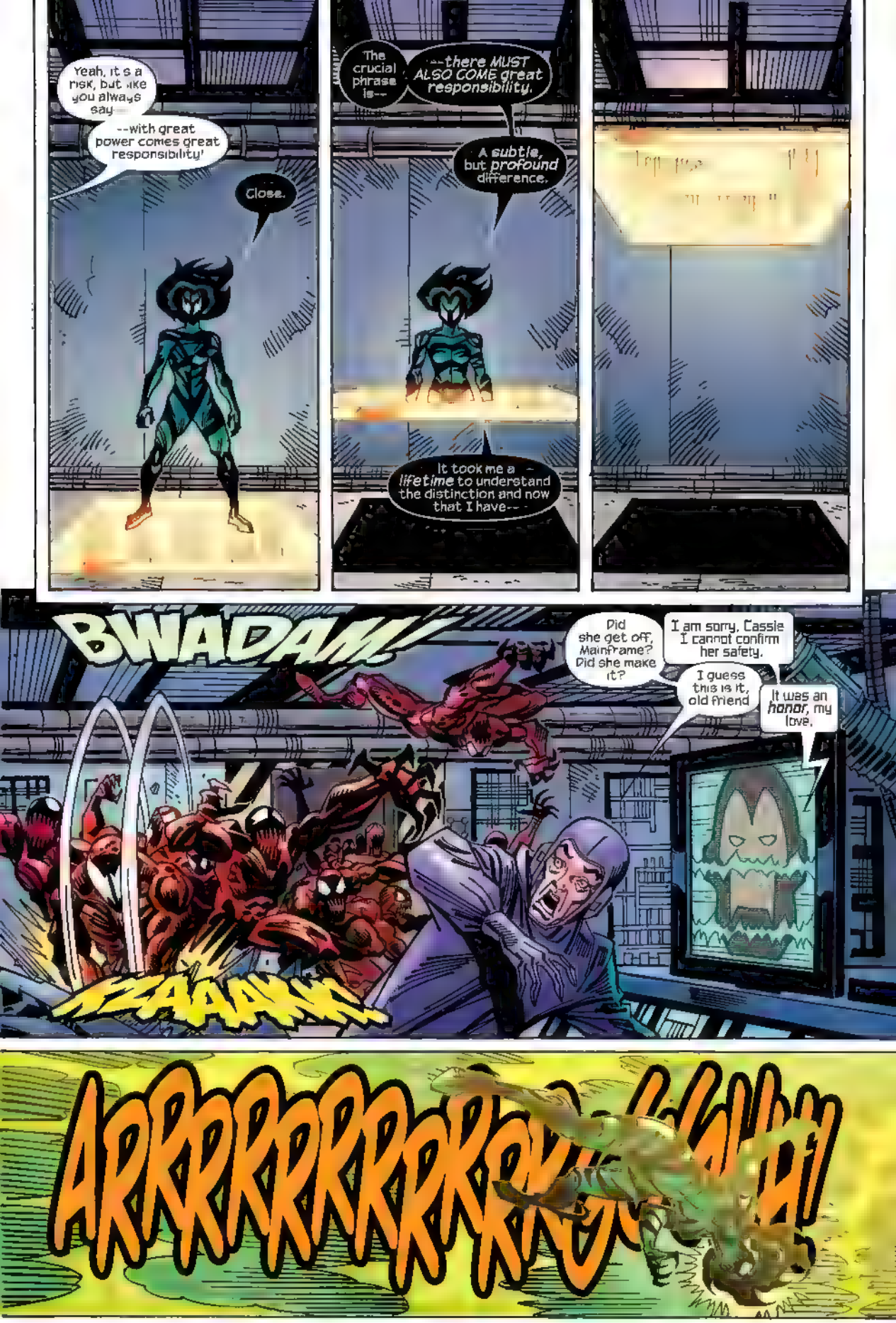
"Like Spider-Girl warned, the authorities eventually pushed back.
"They even sent former criminals against me.
"I returned them--
--in body bags!
"While I'm sure some costumed heroes agreed with my methods, most didn't.
"The situation kept escalating and escalating--
--until I claimed the life of American Dream."

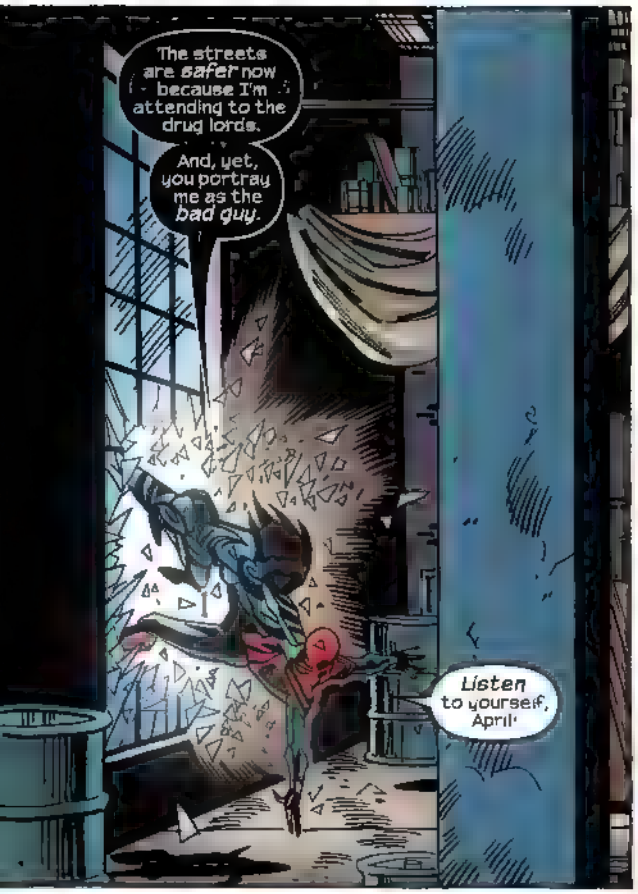
You always said that was an *accident*.
It *was*.
I honestly thought of myself as a *hero* and never intended to harm *her*.
But my carelessness may have caused the destruction of the *human race*.
"Desperate to stop me, the government turned to *Blackworks Paramilitary Services* and supplied them with samples of the *Carnage symbiote*.
"*Blackworks* claimed they had developed a safe process to transform ordinary *soldiers*--
"--into a team of super-powered *bio-predators* that could stop me.
"Maybe the technology would have worked if they'd used regular *people* instead of combat-hardened *mercenaries*.
"Unfortunately, we'll never know."

"The Bio-Preds spread like a toxic tidal wave, destroying everything in its path.
"People were either slaughtered--
"--or absorbed into their ever-increasing ranks."
I know.
That's how I lost my parents and my wife.
You seemed to be the only one who was immune.
That's when you really stepped up and atoned for your past.
Humanity never would have survived this long without you.

Yeah, I've got a lot to be proud of.
Mankind has been living in the sewers for more than a decade.
- We've lost - so many friends, so much family over the years--
--and it's all on ME!
THOOM! THOOM!
Sounds like we've been breached.
I have to take my place on the line.
Hold them off for as long as you can, Super-Storm!
- I'll try to reach Cassie and set "The Mulligan" in motion.
Good luck, M!
You're going to need it.
Awright, ladies! Let's hold 'em back just like we practiced.
Glad to see you on station, Zane!
Where else is an old Avenger gonna be, Torus, my man?

Why can't you just do what you're told, you piece of junk?
Cassie! Cassie! Is "The Mulligan" ready?
Not according to MainFrame! He thinks we need to run a few dozen more diagnostics.
It would be advisable, old woman.
Shut up and run the program like I said. We don't have time to argue.
Say... why are you dressed in that old outfit, M?
A girl likes to look her best when she travels.
Any chance this trick will actually work?
I was hoping you wouldn't ask.
There are just too many variables, kiddo.
Not only did it take us nearly ten years to get this old time platform operational, but we're just estimating the temporal and spatial coordinates.
Well, it's not like we have another option, Cassie.
"This could very well be humanity's LAST STAND!"

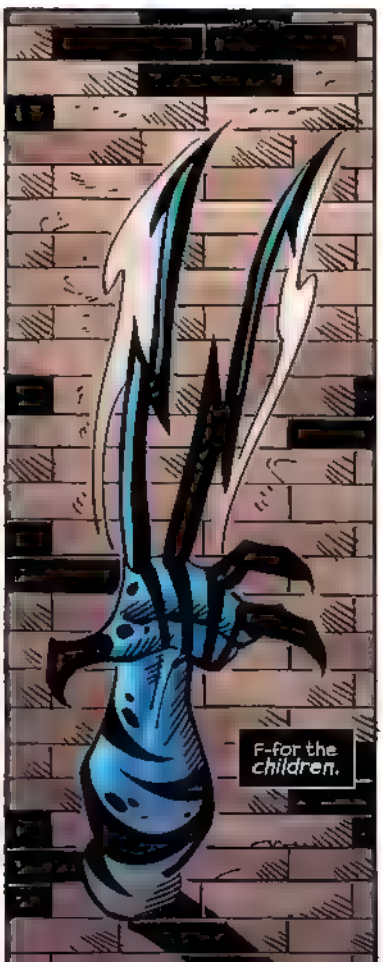

Yeah, it's a risk, but like you always say--
--with great power comes great responsibility!
Close.
The crucial phrase is--
--there MUST ALSO COME great responsibility.
A subtle, but profound difference.
It took me a lifetime to understand the distinction and now that I have--
BWADAM!
Did she get off, Mainframe? Did she make it?
I am sorry, Cassie I cannot confirm her safety.
I guess this is it, old friend
It was an honor, my love.
ARRRRRRRRRR


The streets are *safer* now because I'm attending to the drug lords.
And, yet, you portray me as the *bad guy*.
Listen to yourself, April!

You're *KILLING* people!
That's the very definition of a *bad guy*.
T-this is it! The time is right, but *URRRG*

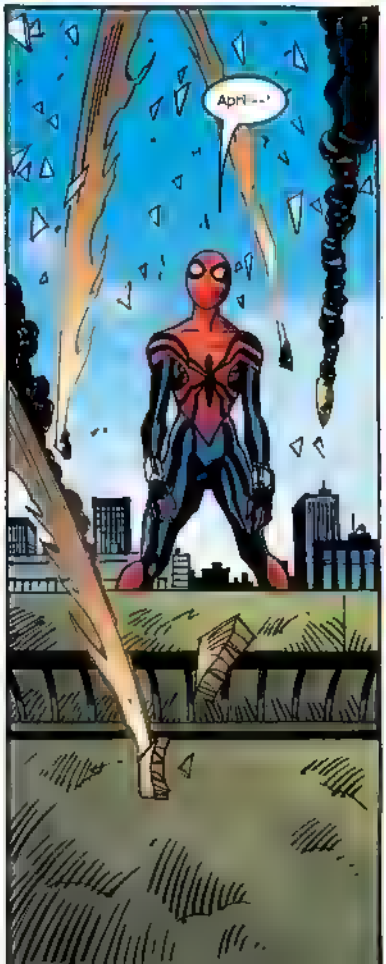
S-somehow materialized *inside* the wall.
P-pure *agony*.
D-dying.
K-has this happened before?
A-am I doomed to *fail*?

N-no!
N-NO!
C-can't *quit*.
M-must find the *strength*.
F-for future generations.


F-for the *children*.

Heroes are supposed to punish the guilty.
SAYS YOU!
No! Our job is to protect the he pless.
KEEEE-AAA
Look what you've done!
We've got to get out of here before the flames reach those paint.ng supp.es.
This is exactly what I'm talking about.
You blame everything on--
Me
P-please work.
P-please understand.
F-farewell, May.
I...I am so sorry.
F-for everything...

April! April! Are you all right?
You look like you've seen a
LOOK OUT!
SWAKK!
KWAFOOM!
Not this time, May
It's my turn to play hero.
I've seen the FUTURE--
-and it needs YOU!
Seems you were right all along, kiddo.
Just took me a lifetime to see it
Say goodbye to the family for me
I really did love them
in my way!


April...!

AAAAPRIIILLL!

Whew
What a *night* it's been!
CAFE INDIGO
Hey, Wes! You're a fan of *Spider-Girl*, right?
Just read on a local news blog that she was involved in a big *explosion* in the warehouse district.
S-she... okay?
Seems so--
--paramedics reported her swinging from the scene.
Sounds goods.
Thanks, Courtney.
I...*uhhhh*... just realized I gotta go.
Catch you tomorrow!
What's with Wes all of a sudden?
He was supposed to help me with my English assignment.
You know teenage boys, Davida.
Takes them awhile to figure things out.
I think Wes finally knows where he belongs.
sigh
I searched through the rubble until the EMTs and cops shooed me off.
Couldn't find any sign of *April*.

I don't know what that means.
Did she find a way to survive--
--or did she suffer that clone degeneration thing you told me about?
We'll just have to wait and see--
--and hope for the best!
I wouldn't worry too much about April. Those clones never die. They always find a way to return.
Peter!
I...I'm sorry.
I don't know what's gotten into me.
I...I'll admit I never trusted April.
But I still didn't want her to suffer any harm.
None of us did.
The poor child--she was always such a lost soul!
W-we welcomed her into our family and really tried to help her--especially you, hon! You did the best you could.
Did I, mom? She became a killer on my watch.
No, she was created to be a killer.
Thanks to you, she tried to redeem herself in the end.
She did what you would have done.
DING DONG!
Hope it's someone selling cookies.
I could use a few dozen.

Wes--?!
Uhhh...hey, Parker!
I...ahhh... just wanted to make sure you were all right.
That's very sweet of you.
But why wouldn't I be all right?
Well, I...
I know, May.
I know all about you.
What are you saying, Wes?
What do you think you--
Oh!
Oh...
So how long have you known my...errrr... secret?
Long enough.
I got one of my own. Wes is just short for Westin.
My real name's Reynard.
Oh, my! That should stay a secret.
How come you're always there when I need you?
Maybe it's, cause you're amazing, spectacular--

So...
=uhhhh=
Where do we *go* from here?
THE END... FOR NOW!